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| We Need You |
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Welcome back to the third issue of CUG's newsletter. It's only number two because we number the summer issue '0'. Anyway, we are happy to have you back to enjoy all the fascinating articles on tap. Next issue there might not be any articles. You can help us solve this problem by writing something yourself. Lord knows we do not have the time to do everything on our own; what you can do for us is to write any article you want on any subject vaguely related to computing at Concordia. If humour is your forte, please proceed -- computer people need every laugh they can get.

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| What an Accomplishment |
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If you do not like displays of raw boastfulness, skip to the next section. As mentioned above, this is the third newsletter published this year; notice that it is still October, the beginning of the year. Without meaning to put down last year's CUG executive, they only managed to produce three newsletters in the whole year and not one of them was as long as any of ours. In fact, the August issue this year is the longest ever produced by any edition of CUG.

Would you believe the August issue is almost THREE times as long as any other newsletter ever produced by CUG! And even better, the second longest in CUG history is our September issue, which is still one and a half times longer than any newsletter from a previous year. To say the least, we are very proud of these small feats.

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| Where to Find Us |
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One of CUG's main missions is to be available to the students at Concordia for help, aid and advice. The problem is for you to know when, where and how to get in touch with us. As far as electronic communication is concerned, we have accounts on all major machines: CCUSC51 on both the CYBERS and (are you ready) CUG on the VAX. You can send us mail any time and be sure of prompt response. We also have an office in the Hall building: H-983. We are very informal about office hours, most of the time the office has a rather party-like atmosphere so feel free to drop in at any time (BYOB). We also have formal hours when you can be sure of finding someone to talk to:

Monday:	5:30- 6:00
Tuesday:	1:30- 2:30
Wednesday:	12:00- 1:00
Thursday:	1:30- 2:30
Friday:	9:00-10:00

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| Unqualified Success! |
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As you may or may not know, CUG held a 'Meet the Profs' Wine & Cheese party on Friday, October 12 and boy was it great! In fact, we estimate over seventy-five people attended including five profs. It was such a roaring triumph that the food ran out after an hour and the wine only lasted for about two

hours!   Thirty-six bottles of wine
and all gone! To say the least we
are very pleased with the turnout
but not very happy that there was no
wine left for us to take home.

From what I could tell, most
people managed to have a good time
without drinking too much (except
for certain people who shall remain
nameless).   In fact, even the profs
had a good time finding out about
the torture they inflict on their
hapless students.   Once again,
thanks to Profs Fancott, Grossner,
Lam, Peters and Shingal for showing
up and proving that teachers are
human too. Also, thanks to everyone
of you wonderful computer-type
students who were there for proving
that we're not all boring.   The
boring ones did not show up.   And
for not showing up, they deserve
missing the fun.

By the time the party broke up
at 11:00, everything was used up.
When we started at 7:00, we had
thirty-six bottles of wine and two
big plates of cheese and cold cuts
as well as a big bag of rolls: some
people even had their supper at our
expense.   It was our pleasure to
provide a break from the terminal
blues on a long, lonely Friday night
of programming.   Also, thanks to
Saga foods for the good stuff.

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| New, Improved CUG |
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Well, our byelections are over,
the votes were tallied (all zero of
them!), and the new executives (all
of whom were acclaimed) have entered
the exciting (?) realm of CUG. We'd
like to extend congratulations, best
wishes, and a warm welcome to the
following new executive members of
CUG:

            Vice-President:
                Richard Migneron
            Secretary:
                Lorna Fallavollita
            Executive Officers:
                Micheline Kamber
                Mark Zelada
            Contact Officer:
                Scott Maynard

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| The Neverending Story... |
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Chapter the Third: It seems
that room H-906 is not a JEF room
after all.   Instead it's the only
room in the university in which you
have your choice of using either
timesharing or JEF! Just turn the
terminal off, then on again. You'll
see a menu screen asking whether you
want to use timesharing (IAF) or
JEF. One word of warning, though:
at present, if you want to use IAF,
when you log in you'll have to
specify your FAMILY name; in other
words, for most accounts, you'll
need to type your ACCOUNT number,
PASSWORD, and then the word
"SCHOOL", all on one line (Example:
when you see the "USER NUMBER"
prompt,   type   something   like
"CCUSC51,pw,SCHOOL" using your own
user number and password, of
course!)

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| FINALLY! |
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It took a while, but the
Computer Center finally implemented
a mechanism to transfer files
between the 835 and the Hall 825.
As a result, all the files we've
been promising to have on the 825
are finally there!   Just   type
CATLIST/UN=CCUSC51 for a list of all
the nifty gadgets and interesting
text we have for you... all of it
absitively posolutely free.   Our
next issue will contain some
instructions on how to use this file
transfer utility... stay tuned!

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| Red Faces... |
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No, we don't mean what most of
us looked like after the Wine and
Cheese party... instead we'd like
to apologize for the absolutely
terrible print quality of our last
issue. Seems the good folks at the
Loyola print shop were asleep on the
job or something; hopefully this
issue will see them back to their
usual high standards!

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|              "R" You There?              |
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Did you hear about the "R" utility? It's the nicest thing to happen to the Cybers in a long time. Just type R to repeat the last command you entered! The form R,XXX will repeat the last command you typed starting with XXX. The system will respond by listing the command, asking for any changes you wish to make to it, and then re-executing the command. For a complete description of command editing, see Software Bulletin Number 426 (available by typing HELP,SOFTBUL).

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|         TOO MANY PERMANENT FILES         |
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If you're receiving this message frequently, you may think you have to purge some files to save space. Not so! The Cybers allow you to use a handy facility called DUMP FILES. A dump file is a file which contains many other smaller files. You can essentially maintain as many files as you wish by storing them in dump files, up to the total space limit on your account. C.U.G. even has procedures to make dump file access simple. Just do the following when you log on:

GRAB,CUGLIB/UN=CCUSC51.
LIBRARY,CUGLIB.

Then you'll be able to use any or all of the following commands:

NEWDUMP,df,f1,f2,...,f8.
    (create a dump file called "df", containing files f1, f2, ..., up to f8; there can be any number from 1 to 8 files)
ADD,df,f1,f2,...,f8.
    (this is similar to NEWDUMP, but f1 to f8 are added to an already existing dump file)
OUT,df,f1,f2,...,f8.
    (create local files f1 to f8 with copies of the information stored in the dump file; the files are NOT deleted from the dump file! again, there can be any number of files from 1 to 8)

KILL,df,f1,f2,...,f8.
    (this is the same as OUT, but the files are deleted from the dump file)
CAT,df.
    (this will list the contents of a dump file)

The above commands are meant to be used from timesharing, but they will also work from JEF as well; just put the appropriate commands in your control card record (at the top of the file).

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|          Help Needed and Wanted          |
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Not everyone is the next Wirth. Some of us need extra help to handle our programming courses and to provide this help CUSA is implementing a tutor program. With this system, advanced students can make some extra money by helping weaker students with their courses. If you feel qualified to be a tutor in any course, sign up at the department office until about October 24. If you need help in a computer course, see the kind people at CUSA in room H-639.

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|                Manual Aid                |
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Just a word of warning: you can't know everthing. When there is something troubling you about one of the computers and you do not know what to do, come to the CUG office and take a look at our collection of manuals. We have manuals on the Cybers, the VAX and soon the IBM PCs. In fact, we will be improving and expanding the scope of our manual coverage.

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|                 Be Nice                  |
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A little while back we found a suggestion in our box and it had some disturbing things to say. The person suggested that a sign be put up in the 825 JETS room to the effect: 'Unattended Terminals Are Considered Free'. It seems to be

common practice that once a person submits a job and is logged off, he or she will not let others log on to the terminal because he or she 'is not finished yet'. I have seen people put their things on the terminal to protect it while they pick up their output and wait the five minutes.

This is an absolutely horrid practice used by only the most impolite and inconsiderate of people. To say that it is to be frowned upon is an understatement; it should be abolished. If you see a terminal 'guarded' by someone, if he or she is not around, move their things and just take the terminal. If the person makes a fuss upon returning, refer him or her to either the JEF consultant or one of the operators for a lesson in politeness. If they are just sitting there waiting, ask them to make room. Once again, if trouble starts, get the JEF consultant or see one of the operators.

After you execute your program and are logged off, please allow someone else use the terminal.

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|  Programming Hints -- Part 3    |
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Notice how that lamebrain editor of this no-good-for-nothing scandal sheet hasn't managed to get me much more space than last time. On to business; this month I will be giving you concrete rather than theoretical advice, something to help you succeed better at your programs.

THINK FIRST, CODE LATER: Let us pretend that you just received your next Pascal assignment. It's due in two weeks so you put it away for a week and a half and then you read the sheet for the first time. The first thing you do is start writing the main procedures. This is the time to stop.

If you insist on procrastinating, do it properly. When the assignment is handed out, read it over carefully a few times before you put it aside. Over the next week and a half you will naturally tend to think about it in spare moments and begin to form ideas about the solution almost subconsciously. Mulling over the problem will give you a head start on the algorithm without expending too much energy.

DATA STRUCTURES FIRST, MAIN PROGRAM SECOND: When you write a program, the first thing you usually do is start writing the main procedures. What you end with getting is a program where the interfaces between the various procedures are unclear and confused; the parameter passing is inconsistent. It does not work. What you end up doing is restructuring the entire thing.

My handy-dandy suggestion is that you start by designing the algorithm. This involves doing flowcharts or pseudocode which outlines your basic attack on the problem. The previous hint gives you an idea of the algorithm for algorithm design. Once this is done, your next task is to take a look at what you are working with. What comes in and what to do with it is the problem of data structures. Now you start coding: but no procedures. If you are working in Pascal, you write the CONST, TYPE and VAR sections of the program so that you know exactly what you are working with later on.

When you design the data structures, be very careful not to leave yourself backed into any corners: know the nature of the problem including all the exceptions. This gives you the strength to go on to the main program and translate the algorithm you designed above into the appropriate language. Following the rules of structured programming, you should now go on to the more important procedures, and finally end off by doing the 'dirty work' procedures.

SOURCE: The musings of the author; the book PASCAL WITH STYLE.